

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-05 IO-10 MED-02 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 OES-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 HEW-02 AID-05 FDRE-00

DODE-00 PC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:BR:RWZIMMERMANN:LK

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

DG/MED:CEKLONTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SWEL,BR

SUBJECT: MENINGITIS OUTBREAK -BRAZIL

REF: BRASILIA 8353

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED PROBLEMS OUTLINED REFTel AND AFFIRM POSITIONS DETAILED THEREIN AND WILL RESPOND TO INQUIRIES USING POINTS CONTAINED BRASILIA 5625.

2. SEVERAL THOUGHTS OCCUR TO US HOWEVER:

(1) WE UNDERSTAND MERCK IS IN FULL PRODUCTION ON MENINGITIS VACCINE TYPE C AND ALL OF IT IS COMMITTED TO GOB. IT IS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE THAT GOB HEALTH SERVICES MAY BE RUNNING BEHIND SHIPMENTS IN ADMINISTERING INNOCULATION PROGRAM, THUS ACCUMULATING SMALL BACKLOG. IF BY ANY CHANCE THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS ADMITTEDLY REMOTE POSSIBILITY, WE WONDER WHETHER GOB MIGHT BE WILLING TO RELEASE SOME

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OF DOSAGE TO SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AMERICAN

SOCIETY WHICH COULD ARRANGE FOR LOCAL DOCTORS TO ADMINISTER VACCINE TO INTERESTED RESIDENT AMERICANS, THUS "ASSISTING" GOB IN THEIR INNOCULATION EFFORTS.

FYI. MERCK IS ALSO PRODUCING TYPE A VACCINE BUT FOR INVESTIGATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. THEY DO NOT YET HAVE LICENSE FOR COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION. ANOTHER COMPANY, MERRELL NATIONAL, IS NOW PRODUCING BOTH TYPE A AND C BUT DOES NOT

ANTICIPATE LICENSE FOR EITHER UNTIL FIRST QUARTER 1975. FACT IS MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REMAIN REGARDING USE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF VACCINE FOR HUMANS. END FYI.

(2) ASSUME EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BE IN CONTACT WITH DR. JOSEPH MC CORMICK, REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTER (CDC) OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA WHO IS IN BRAZIL PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION MENINGITIS OUTBREAK AND PRESENTLY

HEADQUARTERED AT: HOTEL ESPLANADA, GERAL TBX 304 AVENUE SANTOS DUMONT, ROOM 522, BELO HORIZONTE (PHONE 227-411). DR. JAY JACOBSON ALSO OF CDC LEAVES TODAY TO JOIN MC CORMICK.

(3) WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT IF ANYTHING OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ARE DOING ABOUT THEIR RESPECTIVE COLONIES AND WHETHER ANY OF THEM HAVE SOUGHT TO RESTRAIN THEIR NATIONALS FROM TRAVELLING TO BRAZIL UNTIL PRESENT OUTBREAK PAST. (ACCORDING US SOURCE IN NEW YORK, AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO AMERICAN TEENAGERS HAVE CONTRACTED DISEASE IN SAO PAULO AND RECOVERED.)

(4) WITH INCREASING PRESSURES FROM AMERICAN COMMUNITY AS OUTBREAK FAILS TO TAPER OFF, THERE POSSIBLY WOULD BE SOME ADVANTAGE TO APPROACHING APPROPRIATE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES, REQUESTING THEIR LATEST EVALUATION OF OUTBREAK, NOTING CONCERN IN COMMUNITY AND ASKING THEIR VIEWS WHETHER WE SHOULD ADVISE RESIDENT FAMILIES TO SEND CHILDREN AWAY AND ADVISE NEWLY ARRIVING FAMILIES TO LEAVE CHILDREN BEHIND FOR TIME BEING AND/OR PUT OUT TOURIST WARNING. GOB WOULD THUS BE AWARE EXTENT OF OUR CONCERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BASIS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, FOR RESPONSES TO COMMUNITY INQUIRIES.

(5) WE ASSUME ALL POSTS HAVE ESTABLISHED OR CONSIDERED ESTABLISHING "ACTION OFFICERS" PREPARED TO HANDLE PERSONALLY AND AS SYMPATHETICALLY AS POSSIBLE ALL INQUIRIES FROM CONCERNED US CITIZENS ON BASIS LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE THIS SUBJECT. MAW

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